

**HARRISBURG FLOODS
(Susquehanna River)**

DATE	FEET*
October 5, 1786	22
March 15, 1846	22
March 18, 1865	24.6
March 19, 1868	20
January 6, 1886	19
February 1886	20.2**
June 2, 1889	26.8
February 19, 1891	19.7
May 22, 1894	25.7
March 3, 1902	22.4
March 8, 1904	20.2**
March 28, 1913	19.54
March 30, 1914	18.1
March 29, 1916	18.8
March 13, 1920	20.2
February 13, 1925	18.8
March 19, 1936	29.23
April 2, 1940	19.75
January 1, 1943	19.40
May 29, 1946	21.80
November 27, 1950	19.34
April 2, 1960	18.20
February 27, 1961	18.48
June 24, 1972	32.57
September 27, 1975	23.82
April 2, 1993	20.50
March 26, 1994	17.90
January 20, 1996	21.00**

*Data from River Forecasting Center and
Geological Survey Water Resources*

** Flooding begins above 17 feet*

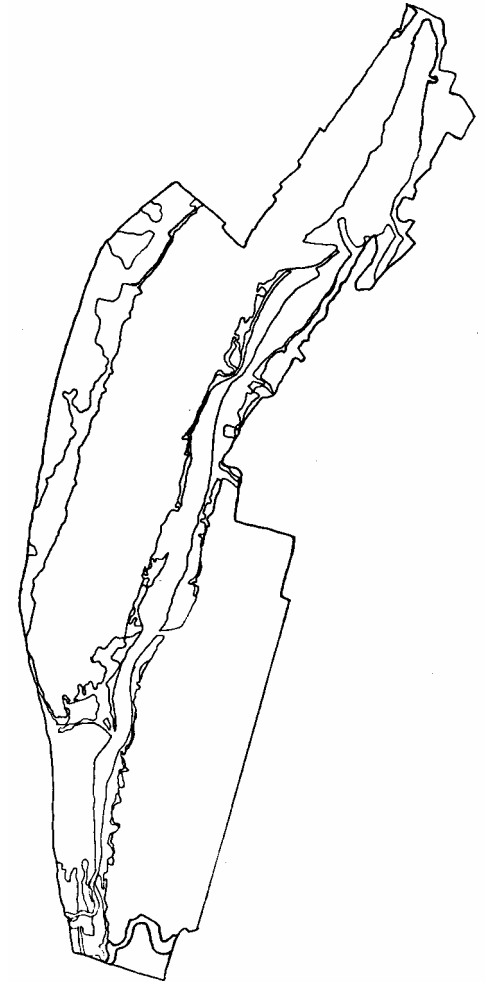
*** Backwater from ice jam*

Approximate drainage area is 24,100 miles²

**IF A FLOOD
OCCURS,
YOU ARE MOST
LIKELY TO BE
FLOODED.**

**YOU MUST HAVE
FLOOD
INSURANCE
TO PARTICIPATE
IN FEDERAL
PROGRAMS.**

**IF YOU
ARE IN THE
FLOODPLAIN:
A Guide**



**Published by the City Of Harrisburg
Stephen R. Reed, Mayor
www.harrisburgpa.gov**

You are in the floodplain, the area most likely to flood.

Flood Hazards

Flooding within the City can occur along Paxton Creek, the Susquehanna River and in low-lying spots such as subway underpasses. River flooding is usually slower, giving one more time to evacuate. Paxton Creek can rise due to either river level or heavy rains entering the creek. Water in creeks, subway underpasses and other low places may rise quickly. Do not drive into any water whose depth you do not know.

If it is necessary to drive through shallow water (3 inches or less) go at a slow steady speed, avoid creating waves and splashing windshield. As soon as you are out of the water, slowly test your brakes.

Flood Insurance

The City of Harrisburg has adopted regulations allowing property owners or tenants to purchase subsidized National Flood Insurance.

This insurance is required for Harrisburg residents who wish to participate in federal programs such as FHA or VA mortgages or CDBG activities when their property is located within the floodplain.

For information on flood insurance contact any licensed insurance agent.

Flood Warning

Flood watches and warnings are broadcast on Harrisburg television and radio stations and weather radio. Should it be necessary to evacuate an area, police cars with loudspeakers will drive through neighborhoods making announcements. Information will also be given on television and radio. Every household is urged to have a battery powered radio to receive such information in the event of an electrical failure.

Flood Safety

During the early stages of a flood evacuation the routes are the same as for TMI or other disasters. Directions can be found in the telephone book. Plan now for a quick evacuation of your home in case it ever becomes necessary.

Prior to leaving, if possible, turn off gas at main meter and electric at main breaker or fuse box. Do not enter a flooded basement.

Persons who are hard of hearing or who have other handicaps and will need special assistance during an evacuation should be registered with the Bureau of Fire. Registration is available 24 hours a day, call 255-3136.

Property Protection

The City of Harrisburg has compiled a Flood Protection Library that explains ways in which you can protect your property. Copies have been presented to each of the three Dauphin County Library System facilities within the City: 101 Walnut Street, Kline Village and Uptown Shopping Centers.

The City Building Inspector can also provide technical assistance on property protection. The inspector can be reached by calling 255-6552.

Federal Disaster Relief

If your home is damaged by floodwaters, the type and amount of federal disaster relief assistance available to you is determined by whether or not your community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program and whether or not you have purchased flood insurance. Securing flood insurance is the responsibility of individual property owners and tenants.

The City of Harrisburg participates in the National Flood Insurance Program which makes benefits available to property owners and tenants within the City. In addition, the City of Harrisburg is participating in the NFIP's Community Rating System which recognizes local efforts to reduce flood damage and thereby also reduces flood insurance premiums.

Permit Requirements

New construction, additions and repairs of buildings and homes require permits. If the structure is in the floodplain it may require elevation for new construction and major new mechanical systems will have to be above flood levels. A public hearing before the Zoning Hearing Board is likely to secure a permit.

Being in the floodplain, you should apply early for building permits. Be certain of floodplain requirements before expending large amounts of money for designs and plans. Consult with the City Building Inspector by calling 255-6552.

Drainage Maintenance

The City of Harrisburg attempts to keep streams and storm sewers open to reduce the likelihood of flooding. The dumping of debris into waterways such as Paxton and Cameron Creeks and storm inlets is prohibited.

Keep rain gutters, downspouts and piping in good repair. This helps to carry storm water off property. The following practices should be put into use: keep gutters along street clear of debris, don't sweep debris into inlets and keep grates of inlets open.

Report blocked or slow draining inlets to the Public Works Department, 236-4802.